



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 331

February Session, 2008

House Bill No. 5851

House of Representatives, March 31, 2008

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. ROY, R. of the 119th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING A CONNECTICUT URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than September
2 1, 2009, the Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall establish
3 an urban forestry pilot program to provide grants to the municipalities
4 of Hartford, Bridgeport and New Haven to assist such municipalities
5 to establish urban forestry programs to plant, inventory and maintain
6 trees within their respective boundaries.

7 (b) In the event that one or more of the municipalities specified in
8 subsection (a) of this section waives its right to participate in such pilot
9 program, any other urban municipality may apply to the
10 commissioner to participate in the pilot program in accordance with
11 procedures prescribed by the Commissioner of Environmental
12 Protection. Timely requests for participation in the pilot program shall
13 be reviewed in the order in which they were received.

14 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) The sum of ____ dollars is
15 appropriated to the Department of Environmental Protection, from the
16 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, to implement
17 the provisions of section 1 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 09 \$	FY 10 \$
Department of Environmental Protection	GF - Cost	280,000	470,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill appropriates unspecified funding for the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to create an urban forestry pilot program. DEP would incur costs of \$280,000 in FY 09 and \$470,000 in FY 10 to establish this pilot program, as detailed in the table below:

DEP Funding Item Description/Purpose	FY 09 Amount (\$)	FY 10 Amount (\$)
UConn's Center for Land Use Education And Research (CLEAR)	40,000	0
Educator for UConn's Cooperative Extension Service	100,000	100,000
Bridgeport: Urban Forest Effects Model (UFORE) and Street Tree Assessment Tool for Urban Managers (STRATUM) analyses	35,000	0
Bridgeport: Generation of specific plans incorporating public input	10,000	10,000
Bridgeport: Tree planting project analysis and planning	20,000	180,000
New Haven: UFORE and STRATUM analyses	35,000	0
New Haven: Generation of specific plans incorporating public input	10,000	10,000
New Haven: Tree planting project analysis and planning	0	80,000
Hartford: STRATUM analysis (UFORE analysis completed)	20,000	0
Hartford: Generation of specific plans incorporating public input	10,000	10,000
Hartford: Tree planting project analysis and planning	0	80,000
TOTAL	\$280,000	\$470,000

DEP also anticipates grant funding in the amount of \$47,000 in FY 09 and \$108,000 in FY 10 from the US Forestry Service (USFS) to be split between New Haven and Hartford pilot programs. These funds would be expended in addition to the costs detailed above.

The Out Years

There could be minimal municipal costs in the future for maintenance of additional trees.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5851*****AN ACT CONCERNING A CONNECTICUT URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) commissioner to create an urban forestry pilot program for Hartford, New Haven, and Bridgeport. The program must assist the municipalities to plant, inventory and maintain trees within their respective boundaries.

Should any of the three municipalities waive its right to participate in the pilot program, the bill allows other urban municipalities to apply to the commissioner to participate (there is no definition of "urban municipality"). Timely applications for any open slots in the pilot program must be reviewed in the order in which they were received.

The bill appropriates an unspecified amount of funds from the General Fund to the DEP for FY 09 for the program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 27 Nay 0 (03/12/2008)